



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

Food, Politics & Fun

Good times were had by all who attended this year's Annual Meeting/ Dinner Dance on that cold Saturday evening in March.

As usual, a wide variety of faces were seen. Some new, some old, all smiling. Good food and hearty conversation prevailed.

As is the custom, some business was taken care of as well. The general elections were held for the OSA Board of Directors. It was the year of the incumbent though. Diane Posen and Pat Troy were handily re-elected. Vince Rychtanek was also handily elected to fill the seat left by Mike Payne. Hey Mike, thanks for serving!

The internal elections were also held. Pat Troy was elected as the new President of the OSA, succeeding Art Paull. Art continues to serve on the board, and is probably glad to hand off some headaches

to Pat! Ron Derby remains Vice-President. Diane Posen retains the coveted office of Secretary, and Kevin Oster has taken over the office of Treasurer from Pat Troy. Pat is probably glad to hand off some headaches to Kevin!

Scores of appreciation certificates were handed out to those who have given their time throughout the year. There were also several new life members acknowledged.

"Chain saw" Joe Klefeker was awarded an honorary life membership for his countless years of selfless service to Owasippe and the OSA. Thanks Joe, and congratulations!

If you missed it, you missed good food, dancing, lively chit-chat and oh yeah, the tantalizing business meeting. Maybe we'll see you there next year.

Summer = Annual Family Picnic

Once again it's time to pack up the cooler, kids, & charcoal, and celebrate another successful camping season at Owasippe. The OSA will once again sponsor the Annual Family Picnic on Sunday August 22nd. This year's picnic, is to be held at Grove #1 in the Theodore Stone Woods. It is located just east of LaGrange Road on 67th Street. This has been site of many OSA picnics in the past and is very easy to get to from all directions.

The picnic will begin at 11 :00 am and lasts until you want to call it a day. Bring a grill, some picnic foods, cold drinks and plan to stay for the afternoon. Children's games such as the JeII-O money hunt, water balloon toss, and a piñata will be held with lots of prizes for all. Games for the adults & teens (horseshoes,

softball, volleyball, etc.) are on tap. Competitions in the past have included inter-camp rivalries, new staff vs. the old timers, guys against the girls, etc., and are always a lot of fun. So here is your opportunity; call up some of your old buds, get together a reunion or maybe just round up a former cabin partner and head on out to the OSA Annual Picnic.



President's Perspective

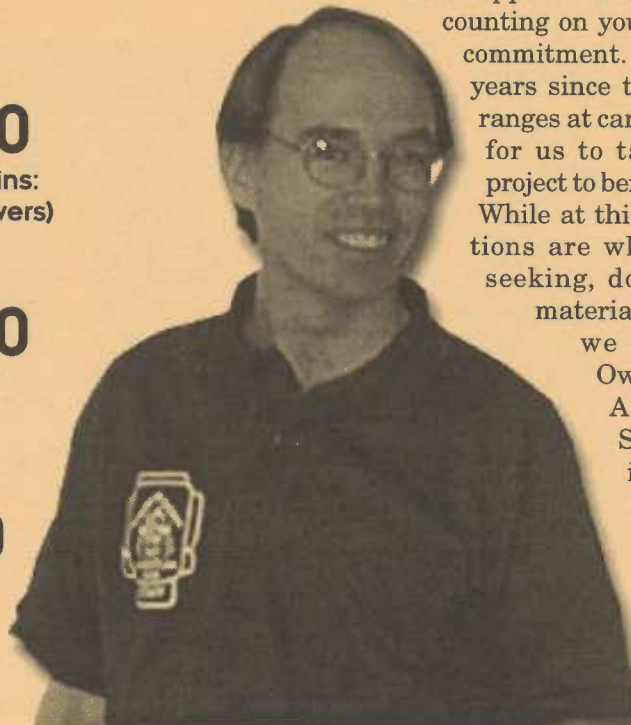
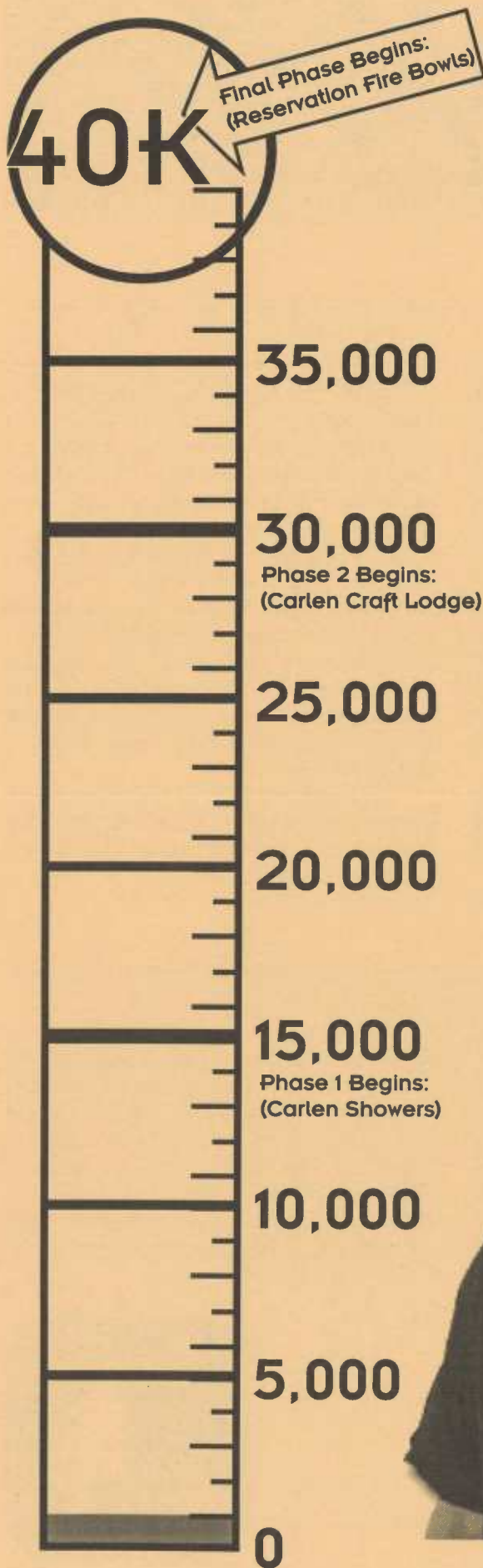
by: Pat Troy

Hello. For those of you who don't know me, first let me introduce myself. My wife Donna (Arenberg), son Kevin and I live in Lemont, IL. I was a camper at Owasispe for 6 summers as a scout. I was on staff for 10 summers holding positions that include Camp Director and Aquatics Director. My involvement with the OSA includes becoming a Life Member in 1988 and joining the Staff Development (CIT) Program in 1995. I was elected to the Board of Directors in 1996 and served as treasurer in 1997 and 1998. I am also involved with the Summer Camp Program Subcommittee of the Owasispe Committee. The job for which I get paid is as a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department.

At the Annual Meeting last month, we kicked off the "OSA 40K" fund-raiser. The goal of our fund-raiser is to raise \$40,000 ("40K") to fund a number of projects up at Owasispe. The main source of the donations is expected to be from you, the OSA membership. The projects will first focus on the re-roofing of a number of buildings, which will be focus of both of our Spring Fixits. Next, we will address the hot shower situation at Camp Carlen, the only camp without a shower house (which has been known to attribute to an aromatic dining hall on hot summer evenings). Then the focus will shift to the craft area at Carlen, again the only camp without a permanent facility for such an activity. Finally, we will rehab the fire bowls at all of the camps, a project that is sincerely needed.

The OSA Board has made a huge commitment to Owasispe in this matter, and we are counting on you to help us honor this commitment. It has been over ten years since the OSA built the rifle ranges at camp and the time is right for us to take on another large project to benefit the scouts at camp. While at this time monetary donations are what we are primarily seeking, donations of time and materials will be needed before we complete our goal.

Owasispe has been called America's Premiere Scout Camp. The OSA intends to do it's part to keep it this way. This project will go a long way towards that goal. Make your donations today, and help us spread the word about the OSA 40K!



The OSA 40K

A Program of Constructive Renewal...



The OSA 40K is a campaign by the Owasippe Staff Association (OSA) to raise \$40,000 (40K) in funds to support a series of projects at Owasippe Scout Reservation.

Currently, the projects include the following:

- Replace or repair roofs.
- Retrofit existing showers at Camp Carlen to supply hot water, or construct a new central shower house at Camp Carlen.
- Construct a Craft Lodge at Camp Carlen.
- Rebuild, and upgrade the firebowls at all section camps.

We will be starting on the first project (Replace or repair of roofs) during the upcoming May and June Fixits.

A number of premiums exist for contributions of varying amounts. These premiums are a token of appreciation for your generosity. They are actually quite nice, and very well made.

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Premium</u>
\$50	Silk-screened cotton T-shirt.
\$100	Embroidered baseball cap.
\$250	Embroidered cotton sweatshirt or polo shirt.
\$500	All three of the above, plus a complimentary weekend stay at a Gray Staff Village or Lake Cabin.
\$1000	Embroidered jacket, plus all three above, plus a complimentary weekend stay at Hillcrest.
\$MORE?	Let's talk...

Remember, as always, your contribution is tax deductible. We thank you in advance for your support of this great undertaking, and look forward to seeing you in the trenches.

OSA 40K Donation/Pledge Form

Mail to: The Owasippe Staff Association, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154

Yes, I would like to contribute to the OSA 40K fund in the amount of:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ other

I designate my gift for the following project:

☐ General ☐ Roofing ☐ Showers ☐ Craft Lodge ☐ Firebowls ☐ Other

☐ My check (payable to the OSA) is enclosed.

☐ Please contact me soon for a check.

☐ I am unable to contribute now, but please contact me again after this date: _____



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signed: _____

Spring Fix-its Previewed

by: Scott Weber

There will be plenty of work to be done on the weekends of **May 21,22,23** and **June 11,12, 13** up at Owasippe. Bring your roofing equipment please, because the supply of tools at camp is very limited or non-existent. If you have access to things like compressors, nail guns with plenty of nails, flat front shovels or pitchforks, tarps, crowbars, etc., try to move them to a staging area now, and be sure to let us know what you can bring. Don't forget the work gloves to protect your hands from injury, and eye protection too.

This year the fix-it focus is clear, repair storm damaged roofs and try to get a big head-start on re-roofing Reneker cabins. Please look over the list of items needed to tackle this project, and try to help us get the supplies. The plan is to have a staging area in the Chicago area, and transport the supplies to Owasippe the first couple weeks of May. There will also be two weekends earlier in May when a core group of team leaders will do some preparation work, so that when we show up in force there will be supplies at the job sites for immediate use (at least that's the plan).

The OSA is not alone in it's effort to repair the cabin roofs. In between our two fix-it weekends, the Order of the Arrow will put in 2 days during the Memorial Day Weekend. If you are a member of the OA as well as the OSA you could get involved in their project work as well. The plan is for the OA to take

care of any roofs we can't finish during the first weekend and hopefully do some prep work for our June weekend. They may also be assigned the staff cabin repairs. This is a joint effort by many groups.

These are the people to call with your reservations for working this spring.

Contact **Mike Sanchez at 847-356-3759** to put your name in for crew leader (good knowledge of carpentry basics is preferred, but we're willing to train) and add whatever supplies you have to our total.

Contact **Ken Graczyk at 773-925-2548** if you can help the weekend of **May 7,8,9** or **May 14,15,16**. These are the "logistics and prep" weekends when materials will be moved, measured and prepared for the main work weekend. Housing will be limited at this point to the Health Lodge, so there will be limited bed/mattress space. Last one to sleep gets to hear everyone else snore! These are also the weekends when the crew leaders will get a feel for what needs to happen. When you call Ken he'll let you know the details.

Contact **Scott Weber at 616-364-7388** to reserve your cabin for the two main work weekends of **May 21, 22, 23** and **June 11, 12, 13**. Please don't wait until the last minute to call.....you can reserve your cabin today. Pick a weekend and call now.

STUFF WE NEED

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL WORK WEEKEND

Here are some tips to help the OSA have a smooth-running pair of work weekends:

- Make your reservations early.
- Let us know how many adults, and children are in your group.
- Bring your own tools (or your dad's).
- Volunteer for some of the hidden jobs, like check-in and check out coordinators, campfire program coordinator, cooking and clean-up crews, etc.
- Try to let us know what your estimated time of arrival at Owasippe will be.
- Call your camp buddies and get them to come up for the weekend.
- Get some sleep during the week.

- Roofing nails
- 30# roofing paper
- 36" X 90# roll roofing
- Roof cement
- Aluminum flashing
- Aluminum or galvanized drip edge
- Boards to replace rotted fascia
- Aluminum coil stock to wrap replaced fascia
- Lumber to replace other rotted or damaged structural members
- Loaner dump trucks or rolloff dumpsters to dispose of stripped roofing
- YOUR HELP



Building A Better Staff

by: Kevin Oster

The staff development (C.I.T.) program is still going strong. This program which is sponsored and funded by the O.S.A., will once again be headed up by Ron Kulak. The rest of the trainers are: Joe Sener, Frank Chlebek, Chauncey and Mary Beth Niziol, Pat Troy, Dan Troy, Kevin Oster, and Ron Derby. There are usually anywhere from 22 to 30 raw recruits in the program annually. This year's group is up to about 28 candidates. A large percentage of Owasippe's camp staff has gone through this training program. Two of this year's Camp Directors, Andy Gorz and Pat Newell, are former graduates of the program.

The program has two major events. The first is the shakedown weekend, typically the last weekend in April. This year's dates are April 23 and 24. This weekend is used to get to know the candidates a little bit. We try to evaluate their skill levels so that we know what to work on when they get to camp. They are given a list of items that they should and should not bring to camp. We also give them their first taste of what its like to put on a camp fire program. Ron Kulak also uses the weekend to meet the parents of the candidates, so they know exactly what we do and what all is involved in being on Owasippe camp staff.

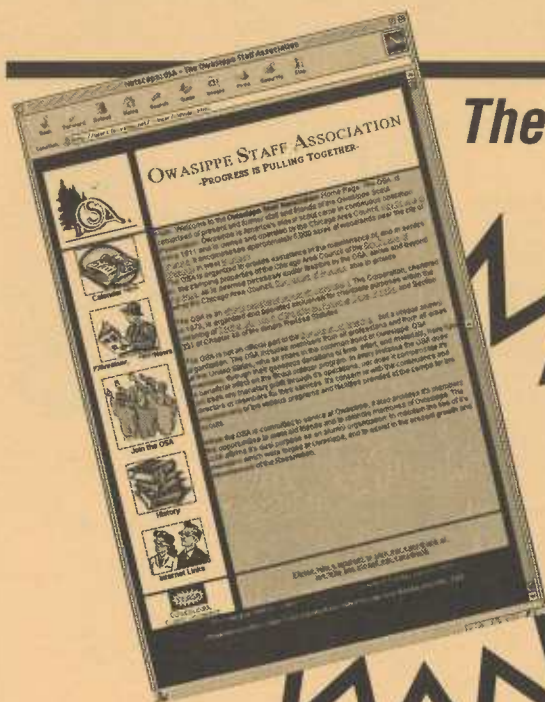
The second part is during staff week at Owasippe. We go further into evaluating and developing their necessary skills. We hike (Kulak Death March) most of the trails, visit each section camp, and canoe a section of the White river. The C.I.T.s get an introduction by an area director from each of the major program areas. During the summer the C.I.T.s will be assigned to three different program areas in at least



two different section camps. The purpose of this is so when they apply for staff the following year they will know what camp and program area they enjoyed and would like to be a part of. Most other scout camps do not have a training program for their first year staff like this one.

To carry on this great tradition, the C.I.T. program needs your help. Frank works very hard raising funds to make it all possible. We use the funds donated by the OSA members, to buy things like patches, hats, equipment, printed materials, and so on. We can't do it without your help. Everyone who donates to the program, will receive the patch shown above (in full color of course). This patch is an exclusive, as it is only awarded to graduating C.I.T.s, the C.I.T. trainers, and those who donate to the program. Help us to keep the dream alive.

Send all contributions to: **Staff Development**
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154



The OSA Online

The OSA has an official home page on the Internet at:
<http://users.foxvalley.net/~vincer>

This homepage features information and news about the OSA and a calendar of events. It also carries news about Owasippe, The Chicago Area Council as well as links of interest to OSA members. If you have access to the Internet, either at home through AOL, CompuServe, or Prodigy, or at work, please check it out.

The homepage has been visited over 2,400 times since last July. The Guestbook now has over 130 entries. Check it out and see who has checked in with the OSA.

The Chicago Area Council also has a homepage:
<http://www.chicago.scouting.org>

Mike Drazba Resigns

by: Vince Rychtanek

Mike Drazba has resigned his position as the Property Superintendent at Owasippe effective May 15th. Mike has been employed professionally by the Chicago Area Council for the past 4 years. He was a volunteer weekend ranger and mechanic for 3 years prior to that. Mike strived to bring a degree of professionalism to the maintenance of Owasippe and convince people of the need for a long-term maintenance plan for the reservation. Under Mike's direction Owasippe saw the creation of a number of innovative, off-season programs at Owasippe.

- The Michigan Mountain Bike Association members provide trail maintenance services as well as much needed income to the camps.
- The Owasippe Conservation Corps was started, primarily consisting of local residents who hunt and fish at Owasippe. The 75 (more or less) members are all required to provide 40 hours of labor in the maintenance of Owasippe.
- The "One for One" weekend program was initiated for volunteers. Under this deal, a worker who provided a weekend of labor to the maintenance of Owasippe was able to earn a free weekend rental of an Owasippe cabin.
- Owasippe hosted "Project Learning Tree", a nature program in the Whitehall schools. Over 1,000 local school children came to Owasippe for field trips, fishing trips and alternative education experiences.
- Dog sled races came to Owasippe. Mushers from all over the country have been flocking to Owasippe every January since 1997. In this short time Owasippe has been recognized as a premier facility for sled dog racing and has seriously been considered as a possible Olympic-training site.

According to Tom Ewan, the Director of Camping for the Chicago Area Council, Ron Wilson will be filling in as interim Property Superintendent starting April 1st and will be in this capacity until Mike leaves in May. Ron will then become the Property Superintendent for the summer. The budget committee is currently evaluating the position of Property Superintendent and it is unknown if this position will even exist in the future. The Chicago Area Council has also lost the Scout Executive due to the retirement of Dean Lollar. The new Scout Executive should be on board by the middle of May and will have a hand in the final design of the ranger staff at Owasippe. Currently there is only one full time maintenance ranger at Owasippe, Jimmy DeBoers. Tom said that one ranger position has been approved in the budget and they are currently recruiting candidates.

As for Mike, he is planning staying in the Owasippe area and remaining active with helping Owasippe.

Vibrations needs copy!

Opinions • Stories • Legends
Artwork • Photos
Editorial Comments • Grapevine News

Address all such materials to:
Vibrations Editor • P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154
e-mail: vincer@foxvalley.net or rderby@xbx.com



Board members not pictured: Art Paull & Bob Ward



The OSA Board of Director's Weekend was held at Hoover a few weeks ago. Among the topics discussed, were long & short term goals for the organization, the 40K program, the upcoming fix-its and much more. Doesn't Vince look like a meanie?

Hey! Are your OSA dues up to date?

Membership dues **DIRECTLY** paid for this very newsletter!

Please send checks to: OSA, P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154

Owasippe Staff Association
1999
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847-695-6751



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*I hereby submit my request to register as a member
and my support of the OSA's purpose*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Service at Owasippe:

Year	Camp	Position

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Marital Status: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names & Ages: _____

Mail to:
OSA
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154
attn: Membership

New Member	\$15 _____
Renewal	\$10 _____
Lifetime	\$250 _____

The Owasippe Staff Association
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154



Vibrations is published four times per year by the Owasippe Staff Association.

The opinions stated by contributors to *Vibrations* are those of the authors, and are not by fact of publication necessarily those of the Owasippe Staff Association or its Board of Directors. Publication does not imply endorsement. All materials are subject to editing.

Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are encouraged. Address all such materials to: *Vibrations* Editor, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154. All materials which the author wants returned, must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope.

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring - January 15
- Summer - April 1
- Fall - August 7
- Winter - October 15

Dates of Interest to OSA Members

May

- 19..... Board Meeting
21-23 Spring Fixit #1

June

- 11-13..... Spring Fixit #2
19..... Staff Week Begins

July

- 17..... OSA Tubing Weekend
21..... Board Meeting

August

- 22 OSA Picnic

